

As a current DSL customer, I feel I must voice my dissatisfaction with the recent decision to unbundle obligations of local phone carriers.

I recently returned to the United States after working in Japan for the last two years. When I looked into the internet options offered here, I was dismayed that the level of service has seen no increase at all, accompanied by a lack of cost reduction. During my two years in Japan, I witnessed an immense improvement in the level of DSL and other high-speed internet services, caused in part by the government policies forcing NTT to open up the phone lines to its competitors. Currently, a multitude of companies compete for customers in the lucrative Japanese DSL market, offering speeds of around 8 times that of basic DSL service here for lower prices. The United States has lost its competitive edge with regards to high-speed internet services, its customers saddled by high costs, low availability, poor service, and a lack of choice. I'm sure you're familiar with the situation in Korea, another country with excellent internet access.

Although forcing local phone companies to open up their lines to competition may seem unfair, the results are unfailingly beneficial to the consumer, and I am dismayed that the FCC has failed in its first priority to protect the consumer. It puzzles me that the baby bells can claim complete ownership of the nation's phone lines, which were built partly by taxpayer dollars, without having to bear the responsibility of serving the public.

I don't know how such a decision can be overturned, but I urge you to seek a way.

Thank you,

Mawo Tominaga